

Emergency Medical Services Equipment Grants - Match for Code Blue Project	FY2003 Request: Reference No:	\$425,000 33797
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AP/AL: Appropriation	Project Type: Equipment
Category: Health/Safety	
Location: Statewide	Contact: Larry Streuber
Election District: Statewide	Contact Phone: (907)465-1870
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007	

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

To provide effective life-saving services, EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency medical equipment and ambulances. Many ambulances and EMS equipment were purchased with federal grants in the late 1970's and early 1980's. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced. Under a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), up to 75% of the cost of ambulances and medical equipment can be provided to communities who meet certain financial eligibility criteria. This request would furnish the remaining amounts needed as "matching funds."

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
G/F Match	\$425,000	\$666,000	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$3,223,000
Total:	\$425,000	\$666,000	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$3,223,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

CH61/SLA01/Pgs19 and 119/Lns20 and 9 – \$533.0 GF/Match

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To provide effective life-saving services, EMS ambulance and first responder personnel need adequate, reliable emergency medical equipment and ambulance vehicles. The Department of Health and Social Services, in cooperation with regional EMS programs throughout the state, has documented a critical need for new EMS equipment and ambulances, particularly in rural communities. Many old ambulances and EMS equipment were purchased with federal grants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. These vehicles and equipment must be replaced to ensure the continued viability of a statewide, comprehensive, life-saving EMS system. Most of the communities with old, failing equipment are staffed with volunteer EMTs who do not have access to the funding necessary to purchase new ambulances and equipment.

In 2001, critical equipment needs identified in the Code Blue Project totaled over 8 million dollars. Through a collaborative effort of various funding agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Rasmuson Foundation and the Denali Commission, approximately \$6.5 million of new equipment is being purchased. Key to this success was the local match pledged by communities and the considered use of the \$533.0 made available for Code Blue matching funds through Chapter 61, SLA 2001. Currently, the Code Blue database contains approximately \$2.2 million in unfunded critical EMS equipment needs. More requests are expected to be received and prioritized later this year.

The USDA's Rural Development Office has a community grant program that can fund up to 75% of the cost of an ambulance and medical equipment for communities that meet certain eligibility criteria. The remaining 25% must be provided as matching funds. Funds received through this appropriation would be used to match funds from the USDA and other sources, and would help purchase equipment for communities which are ineligible for other funding but have critical equipment needs.

In FY 2004 through FY 2008, the continuing appropriations would help keep up with ongoing needs for EMS equipment and ambulances for rural, volunteer EMS ambulance and first responder squads throughout the state, particularly those which are ineligible for funding from other sources such as the USDA.